

## SURFACE GEOMETRY PROJECT LEADS TO BIG IMPACT

**ABOUT GROTE INDUSTRIES, INC.** Grote Industries is a market leader in the design and production of vehicle lighting systems and safety equipment. The company offers its solutions to heavy-duty truck and trailer, fleets, agriculture, mining, forestry, construction, emergency, municipal, and recreational industries, serving customers through a network of distributors. Founded in 1901 and headquartered in Madison, Indiana, Grote also has locations in Canada, Mexico, Europe, and Asia. The company has around eight hundred employees.

**THE CHALLENGE.** Grote develops and specifies its proprietary products in-house through a combination of geometry and analysis systems. The complexity and workflow associated with these interrelated systems led engineering and analysis personnel to experience geometric inconsistencies and potential errors when exchanging data. Grote engaged the Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), part of the MEP National Network™, in a technical assistance project to improve accuracy in its processes.

**MEP CENTER'S ROLE.** Purdue MEP developed a specifically tailored technical assistance project for Grote through its IN-MaC technology adoption program. The company gained a high quality, robust geometric definition of parts and assemblies, as well as an understanding of available software configuration settings to enable better surface definition. Experts from Purdue MEP offered a basic characterization of appropriate CAD modeling methodology, and Grote implemented new processes and systems to achieve the objectives outlined in the project.

Grote subsequently engaged Purdue MEP for numerous other services, including Six Sigma training, Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing training, Advanced Project Management training, and Business Etiquette training. The new processes supported 12-month cost savings in excess of one million dollars, as well as new investments in excess of one million dollars.

"Grote has been in business for nearly 120 years. Throughout this time, we have continually looked for ways to improve our products, processes, and services. Our employees are our greatest asset and it is imperative that they are continually learning to help provide the best possible products to our customers. Purdue MEP supports this journey and has proven to be a great asset for our training programs."

-Drew Garrett, Training Coordinator

## RESULTS



12-month cost savings of over  
**\$1,000,000**



New investments of over  
**\$1,000,000**

## CONTACT US



8628 E. 116th Street  
Suite 200  
Fishers, IN 46038



(800)877-5182



[www.mep.purdue.edu](http://www.mep.purdue.edu)

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY®

**Manufacturing  
Extension Partnership**